

## **State Board Retreat**

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a retreat Friday, November 6, 2015 in Conference Room One of the Hyatt Place in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The retreat session began at 8:33 a.m. The following Board members were in attendance: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan, and Nina Lou Bunting. Donna R. Johnson, State Board Executive Director, and Deputy Attorney General Ilona Kirshon were also present.

Others in attendance included Dr. Steven Godowsky, Secretary of Education; Susan Haberstroh, Department of Education, Shana Young, Department of Education, Christopher Ruszkowski, Department of Education, Michele Brewer, Wilmington University, Kae Keister, Wilmington University, Laurissa Schutt, Teacher for America, Frank Livoy, ARTC, Carol Vukelich, University of Delaware, Bradley Skelcher, Delaware State University, Bobby Martin, Delaware State University, Jeff Gibson, Wesley College, and Roberto Pena, Wesley College.

Dr. Gray asked all to provide a brief reflection from the first day of the retreat. The State Board had a discussion on the Delaware School Success Framework that focuses on multiple measures and there was discussion that the Board will be asked to take action on the framework at its November meeting. There were comments on public perception of schools and reality. It was noted that the multiplier for the participation rate was first introduced to the group about a year ago.

The Board was also reminded that it would need to review the full WEIC plan and all components of what constitutes the public record.

It was explained that under Delaware law, superintendents must be evaluated. Christopher Ruszkowski reviewed Regulation 108A and the five components and includes goal setting, a mid-year review and a summative evaluation. It was noted that there is some inconsistency among the districts on superintendent evaluations. The Board was asked to receive updates from Mr. Ruszkowski on this.

After a short break the Board welcomed representatives from the higher education institutions to discuss the educator prep score card. The Board expressed that education prep programs need to focus on improving student learning and how to teach reading to students. There was an overview of Senate Bill 51 which sets a minimum and best practices comes from the higher education institutions. The score cards were released in October with no formal consequences but the 2016 release will have consequences. The domain categories were highlighted and how the scores are determined. It was noted that although the domains were final, the weights were not. There was discussion on each of the domains in the score card: recruitment, candidate performance, placement, retention, and graduate performance. The higher ed representatives were appreciative of the time and conversation. There was robust discussion on the use of the SAT, the validity of the data, PRAXIS, retaining highly qualified teachers and some items the higher eds have no control

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over but that data is collected. The Board thanked the representatives for the open dialogue noting that the Board values their input and opinions.

The Board concluded its retreat with a review of its strategic plan and next steps. The Retreat adjourned at 3:39 p.m.